रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन विभाग की प्रबोधन प्रणाली के अनुसार सितम्बर, 1998 तक 100 करोड़ रुपए तथा उससे अधिक लागत वाली 208 बड़ी केन्द्रीय परियोजनाएं कार्यान्वयनाधीन थी।

(ग) और (घ) इन 208 परियोजनाओं में से 111 परियोजनाएं अपनी अद्यतन अनुमोदित तिथियों के संदर्भ में अपने निर्धारित समय से पीछे चल रहीं हैं तथा 47 परियोजनाएं शुरू होने की अनिश्चित तिथि वाली है। इन विलंबित परियोजनाओं की अद्यतन अनुमोदित लागत में 17,343 करोड़ रुपए की वृद्धि हुई है।

निर्माणाधीन परियोजनाओं के कार्यकरण की समीक्षा

2150. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:**
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्तमान में निर्माणाधीन उन परियोजनाओं के कार्यकरण की समीक्षा की है, जिन्हें अपने मूल निर्धारित समय में पूरा नहीं किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने कुछ कदम उठाये हैं, ताकि इन परियोजनाओं के निर्माण में और विलम्ब न हो; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कार्यान्वित किये गये उपायों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) विभिन्न स्तरों पर नियमित रूप से प्रबोधन के अतिरिक्त कार्यान्वयन में देरी को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने कुछ विशेष कदम उठाए हैं, जिनमें शामिल है:—

(1) निधियों की उपलब्धता को ध्यान में रखते हुए परियोजनाओं की प्राथमिकता का पुनर्निर्धारण वे परियोजनायें जो कि पूरी होने वाली हैं, एवं वे जिनका संरचनात्मक तौर पर विशेष महत्व है, उन्हें उच्च प्राथमिकता दी जाती है एवं संशोधित समय अनुसूची के अनुसार पूरा करने हेतु उन्हें पर्याप्त संसाधन प्रदान किए जाते हैं।

(2) समस्याओं के निराकरण के लिए प्रत्येक प्रशासनिक मंत्रालय में शक्ति प्राप्त समिति गठित करना।

(3) परियोजना की अवधि तक के लिए केन्द्रक अधिकारी (नोडल आफ्सर) की नियुक्ति करना।

(4) प्रभारी मंत्री, प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय एवं मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय द्वारा विशेष निगरानी।

Lowering of Plan Growth Target

2151. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Plan growth target has been lowered down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what it would be its implications on our economy; and

(d) whether the possibility of further lowering it down is there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997—2002, approved at the internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Government has decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines have been prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The new Draft Ninth Five Year Plan has been discussed at the internal meetings of the Planning Commission and Full Planning Commission. The revised document is to be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of National Development Council. The Planning Commission, in its last meeting in November,

1998, decided to recommend to the National Development Council a reduction in the target rate of growth of GDP from 7.0 per cent per annum to 6.5 per cent per annum average over the five years of the Ninth Plan. This has been done to take into account the actual realisation of 5.1% growth during 1997-98 (i.e., the first year of the Ninth Plan) and expected realisation of about 6% growth during 1998-99 (i.e., the second year of the Plan). Implicit in this target is more than 7% of average growth during the remaining three years of the Plan.

Action taken on the Report of Shukla Commission

2152. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the various recommendations of schemes made by Shukla Commission for the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budgetary provisions made by Government during he current financial year and Ninth Plan, district-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay for implementation of the said recommendations accepted by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Shukla Commission submitted its Report in March, 1997. Further action in the matter, including steps to constitute a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the North East, has since been initiated.

The Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources is designed to assist development projects, such as in the infrastructure sector, in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. The Central Pool comprises of contributions from the concerned Union Ministries/Departments from out of unspent amount (s) from 10% of their Budget (s) earmarked for the North East and Sikkim.

Project proposals relating, inter-alia, to the recommendations of the Shukla Commission, are envisaged to be identified from time to time for assistance, on merits, from the Central Pool.

Planning Commission's remark on Import Policy

2153. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in a recent analysis of current status of imports and exports of agricultural and allied commodities has warned that the present import policy of some food items like wheat, pulses, edible oils and sugar could act as a disincentive to the Indian farmers adversely affecting the growth of the country's agriculture; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make the country self-sufficient in these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning Commission has neither carried out any analysis recently of the current status of imports and exports of agricultural and allied commodities nor has issued any warning to imply that the present import policy of some food items like wheat, pulses, edible oils and sugar could act as a disincentive to the Indian farmers adversely effecting the growth of the country's agriculture.

Criteria Fixed for Backward Area

2154. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed to declare any area as backward;

(b) what are the areas in Mandi, Kullu, Lahaul Spiti, Kangara, Hamirpur, Una, Shimla, Rampur and Surmour in Himachal Pradesh declared as backward during the last five years together with the number of tribal dominated areas; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare some more areas as backward; if so, what are the